

Section 9200 - Plan Review and Exercise Program

The Area Contingency Plan is required by the National Contingency Plan.

Useful References:

National Contingency Plan (NCP)
Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300

National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP)
Guidelines - dated August 1994

Coast Guard Regulations
Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
Sections 154.1055 and 155.1060

The Area Contingency plan is developed in consultation with the appropriate Regional Response Team (RRT), Coast Guard District Response Group (DRG), the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC), Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and local industry members.

Subcommittee Objectives

Annually, the Co-Chairs of the Area Committee will establish objectives to be worked on by the subcommittee. These objectives are established based on national or local issues that need to be addressed by the Area Committee.

Revision and Review

The Area Contingency Plan is a "living document". As such, it is never done. Holding all the changes so they can be published as a single update to the plan is very inefficient.

As an individual subcommittee completes work on an objective an update of the appropriate Area Contingency Plan Section will be written and submitted to the Chair of the Area Committee for review. Once the Chair of the Area Committee approves the section it will be published.

Exercises and Drills

To validate the Area Contingency Plan, exercises and drills are conducted monthly, quarterly and annually.

Area Exercises and Drills

The National Pollution Response Exercise Program calls for Area wide Notification, Spill Management Team Tabletop and Equipment Deployment Exercises to be conducted.

Annually, local industry, in cooperation with the Area Committee, conducts several major spill drills. These drills are jointly designed by the sponsoring company, Coast Guard and the members of the Area Committee. These drills are designed to meet the objectives of the company, the Area Committee and, PREP.

The Hawaiian response community is small. Any company responding to a spill that is larger than the "maximum most probable" involves contracted OSROs, co-op groups, mutual aid agreements, and many members of the Area Committee for an adequate response. As long as these drills continue to be conducted no additional drills will be conducted.

Tri-Annual Area Drills and Exercises

Every three years the Coast Guard sponsors a major Area Exercise. The National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) is responsible for this program. This exercise is held in compliance with the National Pollution Response Exercise Program.

Facility and Vessel Drills and Exercises

Each facility and vessel that is required to maintain a Response Plan is required to conduct Qualified Individual Notification, Spill Management Team Tabletop and Equipment Deployment Drills. In addition, they are subject to Government Initiated Unannounced Spill Drills. These drills are conducted on a random basis by the local Coast Guard Marine Safety Office and will not occur more than once every three years.

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